

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMCONSUL MUNICH

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SUBJECT: TELECOMMUNICATIONS: HARMONIZATION AT THE EUROPEAN
LEVEL

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1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AT THE JULY 2-3 MUNICH MEETING OF THE
COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON HARMONIZATION (CCH) OF THE EUROPEAN
CONFERENCE OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (CEPT) ARANGE-
MENTS FOR LIAISON WITH THE USG WERE DISCUSSED. HOWEVER,
THE PARTICIPANTS DID NOT FEEL THE COMMITTEE'S TERMS OF
REFERENCE WERE BROAD ENOUGH TO PERMIT IT TO MAKE RECOMMENDA-
TIONS ON THE NATURE OF LIAISON BETWEEN THE CCH AND THIRD
COUNTRY GOVERNMENTS. IT IS THEREFORE SEEKING BROADER TERMS
OF REFERENCE FROM THE CEPT COMMISSION SO IT CAN ADDRESS
THIS ISSUE. THE EC RATIONSHIP WITH THE CEPT WILL BE
BASED ON A CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE EC
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COMMISSION AND THE CCH. END SUMMARY.

2. ON JULY 9, SMULIAN, THE EC COMMISSION TELECOMMUNICATION DIVISION CHIEF, GAVE US A BRIEF RUNDOWN ON THE RESULTS OF THE CCH MEETING WHICH TOOK PLACE IN MUNICH ON JULY 2-3. ALTHOUGH THE ISSUE OF LIAISON WITH THIRD COUNTRIES, AND PARTICULARLY THE US, WAS DISCUSSED, THE PARTICIPANTS CONCLUDED THAT THEIR TERMS OF REFERENCE WERE LIMITED TO ARRANGEMENTS FOR LIAISON WITH THE EC COMMISSION AND WITH INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION ORGANIZATIONS. THE CCH WILL ASK THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF THE CEPT, WHICH WILL BE HELD IN OCTOBER, TO BROADEN THE TERMS OF REFERENCE SO THAT IT CAN MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CONTACTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES. MR. T. LARRSON OF THE SWEDISH TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM IS HEAD OF THE CEPT COMMISSION (SEE REFTEL B).

3. IN AN EARLIER CONVERSATION DURING WHICH WE THANKED HIM FOR HIS EFFORTS IN ARRANGING TO HAVE THE CCH DISCUSS THE US QUESTION AT ITS MUNICH MEETING, SMULIAN HAD DESCRIBED THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EC AND CEPT. THE CEPT WILL BE, AS IT ALWAYS HAS BEEN, TOTALLY INDEPENDENT OF THE EC. THE EC'S RELATIONS WITH THE CEPT WILL BE HANDLED THROUGH AN "EFFICIENT CHANNEL" OF COMMUNICATION WITH THE CCH. (THE MODALITIES MAY HAVE BEEN DECIDED AT THE MUNICH MEETING BUT WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ON THIS POINT).

4. WE ASKED SMULIAN IF THE COMMISSION WOULD TRY TO HARMONIZE EC MEMBER STATE POSITIONS IN THE CEPT OR CCH AS THEY DO, FOR EXAMPLE, IN THE OECD. HE RESPONDED THAT THE MEMBER STATES WOULD BE FREE TO ACT AS THEY WISHED. THE ONLY DIFFERENCE THAT MAY DEVELOP BETWEEN THE EC MEMBER STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES IS THAT THE NINE WILL PARTICIPATE IN ALL OF THE WORK BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE CCH AND WILL THEREFORE FORM THE CORE OF THE ORGANIZATION. SMULIAN SAID THAT IF THERE WAS NO PROGRESS IN THE CEPT TOWARD A EUROPEAN-LEVEL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM, THEN THE WORK ON SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT AND EQUIPMENT HARMONIZATION MIGHT HAVE TO SHIFT BACK TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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EC. SMULIAN WOULD CONSIDER SUCH A TURN OF EVENTS REGRETTABLE BECAUSE HE BELIEVES THE EC IS NOT A LARGE ENOUGH UNIT FOR A TELECOMMUNICATION SYSTEM.

5. SMULIAN SKETCHED WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IN THE CCH LEADING TOWARD TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT STANDARDS HARMONIZATION. THE WORK IN THE CCH WOULD BE DIRECTED IN THE FIRST

INSTANCE TOWARD A HOMOGENIOUS ELECTRONIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM FOR THE 1990S. THE CCH WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT TYPE OF SYSTEM IT SHOULD BE AND HOW SERVICES WOULD BE PROVIDED. ONLY THEN, ACCORDING TO SMULIAN, COULD DISCUSSION TURN TO EQUIPMENT STANDARDS HARMONIZATION. HE EXPECTS THE GREAT MAJORITY OF TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS WOULD BE BORROWED FROM THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE FOR INTERNATIONAL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH (CCITT).

6. THE ROLE OF THE CCH HAS BEEN DESCRIBED IN AN ARTICLE IN THE FRENCH PUBLICATION, POSTES ET TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF APRIL-MAY, 1975 (A COPY OF THE ARTICLE WAS POUCHED TO EUR/RPE). IT STATES THAT "THE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON HARMONIZATION, OF WHICH THE CHAIRMANSHIP HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THE FRG, WILL PROVIDE DIRECTIVES FOR HARMONIZING WITHIN THE CEPT, A) THE SERVICES THAT WILL BE OFFERED TO CLIENTS, B) THE OPERATING PROCEDURES, AND C) THE SPECIFICATIONS AND TECHNICAL NORMS FOR EQUIPMENT". MYERSON

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